

## CHAPTER 21 POLICE AND FIRE EMERGENCIES

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### 2100 CROWD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

- 2100.1 When fires, accidents, wrecks, explosions, parades, or other occasions cause or may cause persons to collect on the public streets, alleys, highways, or parkings, the Chief of Police, an inspector or captain of the police, or an officer acting for him or her may establish an area or zone that he or she considers necessary for the purpose of affording a clearing for the following:
- (a) The operation of firemen or policemen;
  - (b) The passage of a parade;
  - (c) The movement of traffic;
  - (d) The exclusion of the public from the vicinity of a riot, disorderly gathering, accident, wreck, explosion, or other emergency; and
  - (e) The protection of persons and property.
- 2100.2 Each person present at the scene of an emergency occasion shall comply with any necessary order or instruction of any police officer.
- 2100.3 No person shall enter the emergency area or zone unless duly authorized by the person in command of the emergency occasion, except as provided in §2100.4.
- 2100.4 *Bona fide* representatives of the press, *bona fide* insurance adjusters or underwriters, and other persons that the Chief of Police may authorize to be within the emergency area or zone shall be permitted within the lines established by the Police Department under the conditions set forth in §2100.5 and §§2101 through 2103.
- 2100.5 Persons entering the emergency area or zone under §2100.4 shall have plainly exposed to view the press pass or fire pass issued under the provisions of §§2101 through 2103.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is An Act approved January 26, 1887, 24 Stat. 368, ch. 49, §1, as amended, D.C. Code §1-315 (1992 Repl. Vol.).

SOURCE: Article 6, §5(a) of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

## 2101 EMERGENCY AND PRESS PASSES: GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2101.1 Upon approval by the Mayor, "emergency passes" similar to police press passes or fire passes, may be issued to individuals whose duties require quick passage through police or fire lines in the interest of public peace, health, and safety.
- 2101.2 Any person holding an emergency, fire, or press pass who violates any of the provisions of §§2100 through 2103 shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (§300) for each and every offense.
- 2101.3 Any person who duplicates or counterfeits an emergency, fire, or press pass, or who uses a duplicate or counterfeit pass, for the purpose of obtaining or enabling others to obtain privileges granted to authorized holders of the pass shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (§300) for each and every offense.
- 2101.4 Any person who withholds delivery of an emergency, fire, or press pass upon demand for it by the Chief of Police shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (§300).
- 2101.5 The Mayor reserves the right to suspend for a period or indefinitely the privileges conferred by an emergency, fire, or press pass, or to revoke any pass, upon receiving evidence that the pass has been used by the person to whom it was issued for the purpose of imposing upon any public official or private individual; or for any failure to observe the conditions under which the pass was issued.

SOURCE: Article 6, §§5(d), (e), (f) of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

## 2102 POLICE PRESS PASSES

- 2102.1 The Chief of Police is authorized and directed to issue passes to *bona fide* news gathering representatives of the press, radio, television, and newsreels.
- 2102.2 Each pass shall be signed by the Chief of Police.
- 2102.3 Passes shall be in the form and number approved by the Mayors' Committee on the Issuance and Use of Police Press Passes.
- 2102.4 The Mayors' Committee on the Issuance and Use of Police Press Passes shall establish rules governing the issuance of police press passes. The rules shall be subject to the approval of the Chief of Police.
- 2102.5 Passes issued under the provisions of this section shall be valid for the period of time stated on the face of the pass.
- 2102.6 No police press pass shall be valid for more than one (1) year.



- 2102.7 Passes shall expire not later than December 31st of each year, but may be renewed on the condition that the expired pass issued for the preceding months shall be surrendered with the request for renewal.
- 2102.8 A press pass shall be plainly exposed to view whenever the person to whom it is issued uses it.
- 2102.9 Passes issued to individuals shall not be transferable.
- 2102.10 Each person to whom a press pass is issued shall agree in writing to assume all risks incident to the use of the pass, to comply promptly with any reasonable direction of any member of the Metropolitan Police Department, and to conduct himself or herself in a manner that does not interfere with, hinder, or obstruct any authorized person engaged in preserving the peace, maintaining order, and protecting life and property.
- 2102.11 On and after December 31, 1983, an annual fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be imposed on each police press pass issued or renewed pursuant to this section.
- 2102.12 The Mayor may amend the amount of fee imposed under §2102.11 on press passes issued or renewed to reflect an amount that, in the Mayor's judgment, will defray the approximate costs to the District of the issuance or renewal of the passes.

SOURCE: Article 6, §5(b) of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

### **2103 FIRE PASSES**

- 2103.1 The Chief of Police is authorized to issue fire passes to *bona fide* fire insurance adjusters or fire underwriters, and to others who are qualified because of their interest in, and services on behalf of, the Fire Department.
- 2103.2 Fire passes, in the form as may be approved by the Mayors' Committee on Fire Passes, shall be issued only on the recommendation of the Committee.
- 2103.3 Each fire pass shall be signed by the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
- 2103.4 Fire passes shall not entitle the holders of the passes to enter upon private property.
- 2103.5 A fire pass shall be plainly exposed to view whenever the person to whom it is issued uses it.
- 2103.6 Passes issued under the provisions of this section shall expire on December 31st of each year, but may be renewed by surrendering the old pass with the application for renewal.
- 2103.7 Fire passes shall not be transferable.
- 2103.8 The person to whom a fire pass is issued shall agree in writing to assume all risks incident to the use of the privileges conferred by the pass, to comply promptly with any order of a member of the Police or Fire Department, and to conduct himself

or herself in a manner that does not interfere with, hinder, or obstruct any authorized person engaged in preserving the peace, maintaining order, and protecting life and property.

SOURCE: Article 6, §5(c) of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

**2104 [RESERVED]**

**2105 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES**

- 2105.1 No person shall break the doors or locks of, or interfere in any way with, the signal boxes of the fire alarm or police patrol system.
- 2105.2 No person shall meddle or tamper with any bells, gongs, telephones, or other instruments or apparatus connected with or constituting any part of the telegraph or telephone service of the District.
- 2105.3 No person shall cut, break, injure, remove, or disturb any wire or wires connected with or forming a part of the services listed in §2105.1.
- 2105.4 No person shall place any billboard, sign, or other article or thing in front of or upon any fire alarm, patrol box, or fire hydrant so as to obstruct the view or ready access to it.
- 2105.5 No person shall fasten, tie, or hitch any horse, mule, or other animal to any fire alarm or patrol box, or to any pole or post used for the support of that box.
- 2105.6 No person shall leave any animal standing, without being tied, hitched, or fastened, near enough to any fire alarm or patrol box that injury might ensue by the animal rubbing against or coming in contact with the box, pole, or post.
- 2105.7 No person shall ride or drive any horse, mule, or other animal or cart, wagon, or other vehicle against any box, pole, or post upon which a fire alarm or police patrol box is supported.
- 2105.8 No person shall hang or swing upon the iron rods or pipes attached to any signal box; or climb upon, or in any manner tamper with, any fire alarm or patrol box within the District.
- 2105.9 Each lineman, repairman, or other employee of any telegraph, telephone, messenger, signal, or electric lighting company shall wear a conspicuously numbered badge indicating the name of the company by which he or she is employed while doing the following:
- (a) While engaged in stringing, repairing, or replacing any overhead wire;



- (b) While engaged in erecting, restoring, or repairing any pole of the company; or
- (c) While doing other work in connection with poles or wires.

SOURCE: Article 19, §§1, 2, 3 of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

## **2106 FALSE ALARMS AND REPORTS**

- 2106.1 It shall be unlawful for any person or persons willfully or knowingly to give or send, or cause to be given or sent, a false call; or to give or cause to be given any false information relative to a call for any ambulance, emergency vehicle of the water operations division, fire apparatus, or police vehicle within the District.
- 2106.2 No person shall knowingly make or cause to be made to the Metropolitan Police Department, or to an officer or member of the Department, a false or fictitious report of the commission of any criminal offense within the District; or a false or fictitious report of any other matter or occurrence of which the Department is required to receive reports; or in connection with which the Department is required to conduct an investigation. Upon conviction of knowingly giving a false or fictitious report, a person shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$300), or by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) days.
- 2106.3 Any person who knowingly communicates or causes to be communicated to the Metropolitan Police Department, or any officer or member of the Department, any false information concerning the commission of any criminal offense within the District; or concerning any other matter or occurrence of which the Metropolitan Police Department is required to receive reports; or in connection with which the Metropolitan Police Department is required to conduct an investigation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars (\$300), or by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) days.

SOURCE: Article 19, §§4, 5 of the Police Regulations (May 1981).

